

What is claimed is:

1. A coating composition comprising:
a carrier; and
a plurality of shaped opaque covert flakes dispersed in the carrier, wherein each of the plurality of shaped opaque inorganic covert taggent flakes has a selected shape and a thickness less than 10 microns.
2. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise multiple thin film layers.
3. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque inorganic covert taggent flakes has a thickness between about 0.5 micron and about 3 microns.
4. The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising a second plurality of shaped opaque flakes having a second selected shape.
5. The coating composition of claim 4 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise bright flakes.
6. The coating composition of claim 4 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes have a grating pattern, the selected shape being visible at a first magnification and the grating pattern not being visible at the first magnification, wherein the grating pattern is visible at a second magnification, the second magnification being greater than the first magnification.
7. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes include a grating pattern.
8. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes include an elemental indicator.

9. The coating composition of claim 8 wherein an optically active layer in the opaque covert flake comprises the elemental indicator.
10. The coating composition of claim 9 wherein the optically active layer is one of a reflective layer, a spacer layer, and an absorber layer.
11. The coating composition of claim 8 wherein the elemental indicator is in a non-optically active layer.
12. The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising base pigment having a first elemental composition, wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes have a second elemental composition including an elemental indicator not found in the first elemental composition.
13. The coating composition of claim 12 wherein a ratio of base pigment to shaped opaque covert flakes is selected to provide a selected amount of the elemental indicator.
14. The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising a base pigment having a first selected color, the base pigment being mixed with the shaped opaque covert flakes to provide a pigment mixture, wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes are bright flakes having a selected shape, and wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise less than 5 weight % of the pigment mixture.
15. The coating composition of claim 14 wherein the bright flakes comprise less than 1% of the pigment mixture.
16. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise bright flake.
17. The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising base pigment having a selected color, the shaped opaque covert flakes having the selected color.

18. The coating composition of claim 17 wherein the base pigment comprises mica-based pigment.
19. The coating composition of claim 17 wherein the base pigment comprises color-shifting pigment.
20. The coating composition of claim 17 wherein the carrier is a varnish.
21. A method of making pigment flake comprising:
providing a substrate having a first patterned portion and a second portion.
depositing at least one thin film layer on the substrate; and
processing the at least one thin film layer into a flake mixture having a selected amount of taggent flakes.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the substrate is a roll or polymer film.
23. The method of claim 21 wherein the second portion is a second patterned portion.
24. The method of claim 21 wherein the first patterned portion includes a frame, the taggent flakes having a selected shape.
25. The method of claim 21 wherein the first patterned portion includes a grating pattern.
26. The method of claim 21 wherein the first patterned portion includes a symbol.